



Dear Sir,

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MAR 02 2004

Technology Center 2600

In the specification:

Page 4, delete the paragraph beginning on line 16 and substitute the following paragraph therefore;

AI

--A problem occurs in conventional hashing which substantially reduces the effectiveness of the function. In a typical network, the same hashing function is used at every node in the network. Consequently, for a particular packet being forwarded along a path, the same hash function result is obtained at every node. Also, the packets that actually arrive at a particular node in the network are a function of the hash values that have been computed at other upstream nodes. This implies that the hash function, as implemented at any particular node, will not obtain all possible output values with the same probability. As a result of these factors, the conventional hashing function does not provide for utilization of the network resources in the most efficient fashion.--